

**METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR DETERMINING
INFORMATION TO ACCESS AN ELECTRONIC MAIL ACCOUNT**

Abstract of the Invention

An automatic detection device and method for determining the access data necessary to access an existing electronic mail account. Further, the automatic detection device and method can determine whether an electronic mail account can be accessed according to a specific electronic mail protocol. With the detection device and method, the user provides the password and address for an existing electronic mail account. From this information, the automatic detection device and method determines the user name and the server name for the server hosting the electronic mail account. The device and method then employs the user name, server name and password to determine whether the electronic mail account can be accessed according to a particular electronic mail protocol, such as the post office protocol, and, if possible, to access the electronic mail account.